The French Revolution

What was the French Revolution and how did it effect Europe?

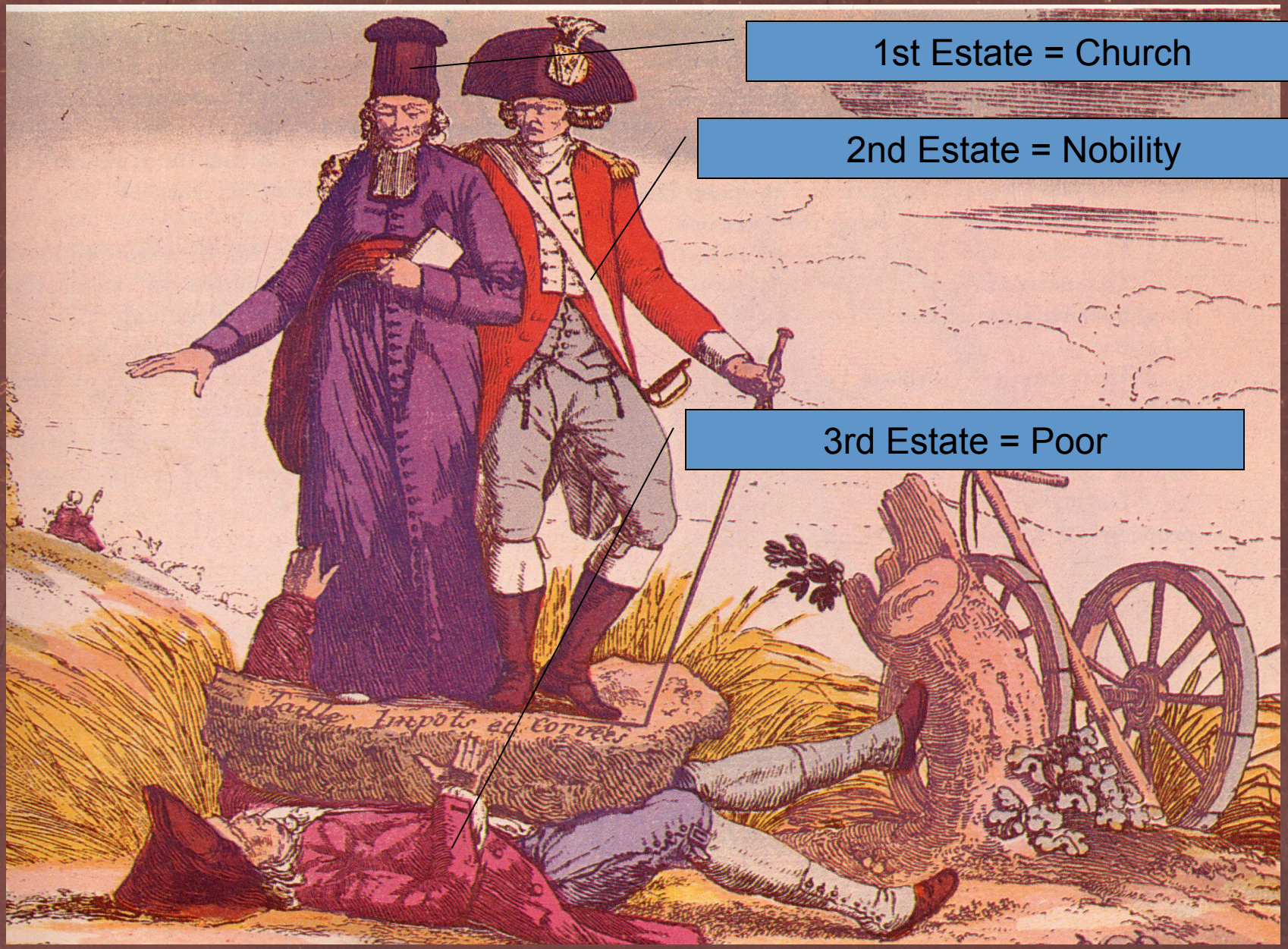
What was the French Revolution?

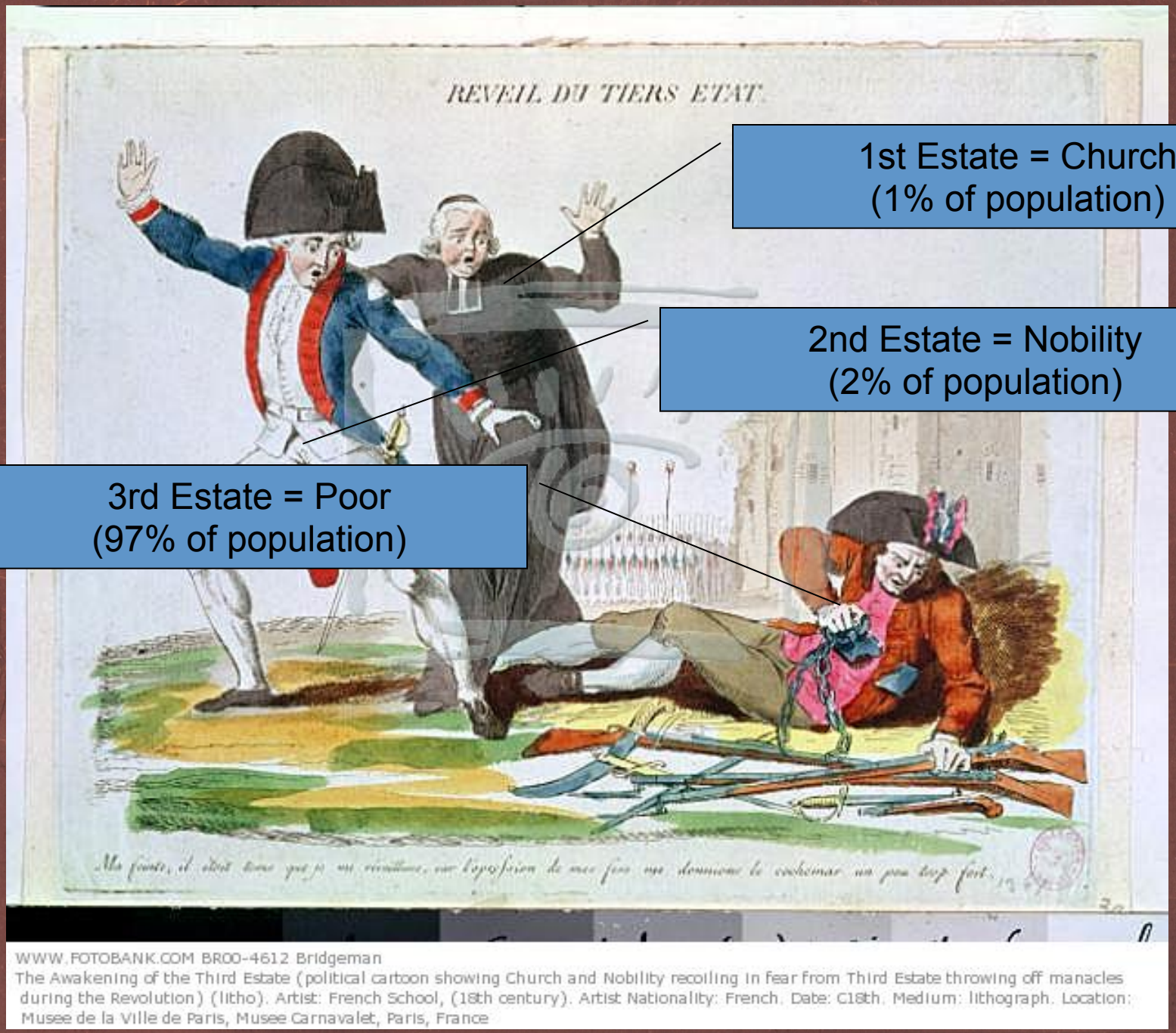
- The French Revolution was a time of great political change in France
  - 1787 - 1799
  - Moved from having an absolute monarch
    - Based on "divine" right
  - To having a democratic government
    - Based on the Enlightenment

What was the "Estate" system in France?

- The "Estate" system in France where large social classes
  - "Old Regime"
- Three (3) levels:
  - 1st Estate = Church
  - 2nd Estate = Nobility
  - 3rd Estate = Peasants
- Estates-General
  - An assembly of all three classes

The "Estates" of France





WWW.FOTOBANK.COM BR00-4612 Bridgeman
The Awakening of the Third Estate (political cartoon showing Church and Nobility recoiling in fear from Third Estate throwing off manacles during the Revolution) (litho). Artist: French School, (18th century). Artist Nationality: French. Date: C18th. Medium: lithograph. Location: Musee de la Ville de Paris, Musee Carnavalet, Paris, France

Why did the French Revolution start?

Three (3) major factors:

1. Weak leadership / resentment of lower classes
   - King Louis XVI & Marie Antoinette
2. Economic problems
   - The "Great Debt"
3. The Enlightenment
   - Inspired by the success of the American Revolution

The French Monarchy: 1775 - 1793

Marie Antoinette & Louis XVI

Marie Antoinette's "Peasant Cottage"

The Necklace Scandal

1,600,000 *livres* [$100 million today]

A French con artist tries to extort the crown jewels of the French royal family by using the Queen's love of jewelry

France's Role in the American Revolution

Lafayette & Washington

French Forces at Yorktown (1781)

The Poverty of the French People

Food Riots in France

Let Them Eat Cake!

- The phrase most associated with Marie Antoinette, though most historians believe she never said the famous line…

Eating Soap???

Marie Antoinette (2006)

What events helped to bring the Revolution about?

- May 5, 1789
  - The Meeting of the Estates
    - Lower classes demanded more power
- July 14, 1789
  - The Storming of the Bastille
    - Bastille Day

The Meeting of the Estate-General

The Tennis Court Oath

The Storming of the Bastille

July 14 = Bastille Day

Plus it’s a very cool Rush song…

Was the “Man in the Iron Mask” real?

Burning of Estates in the French Countryside

Confiscation of Church Land

The "Liberty Cap": *Bonne Rouge*

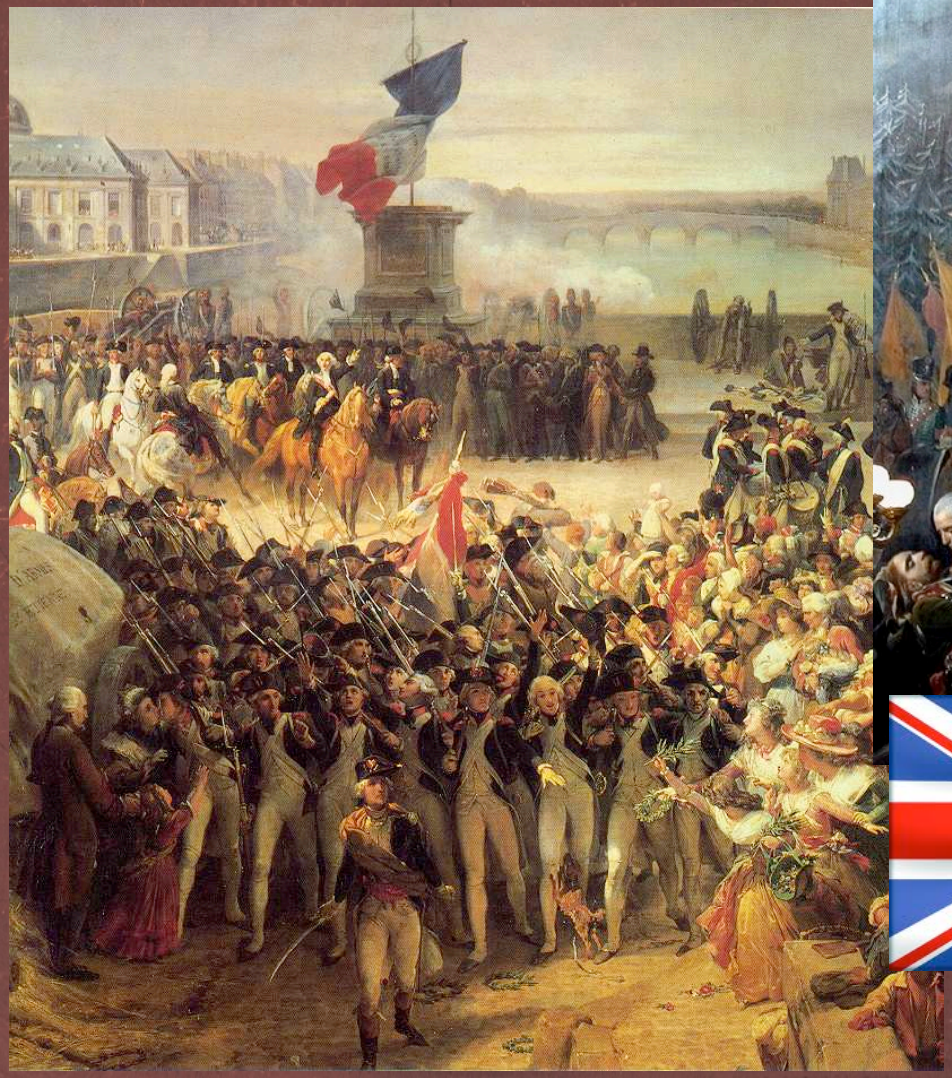
How did the revolutionaries change French society?

- The first group to lead Revolutionary France were the "moderates"
  - Limited monarchy
  - Limited Church
  - A written constitution
- The Declaration of the Rights of Man
  - "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity"

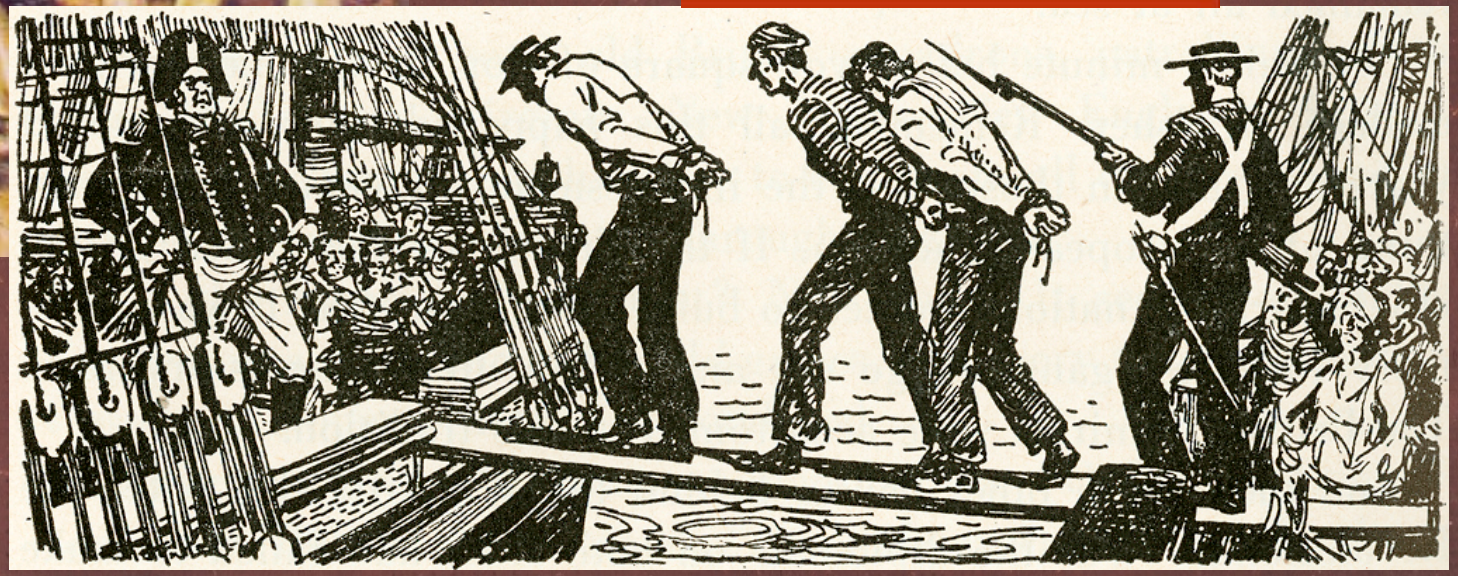
Should the King / Queen still be around?

Issues of Debt / Bad Economy

Foreign Invasion



Issues with the US on the High Seas



Should women be included?

The Women's March (1789)

No improvement for the people…

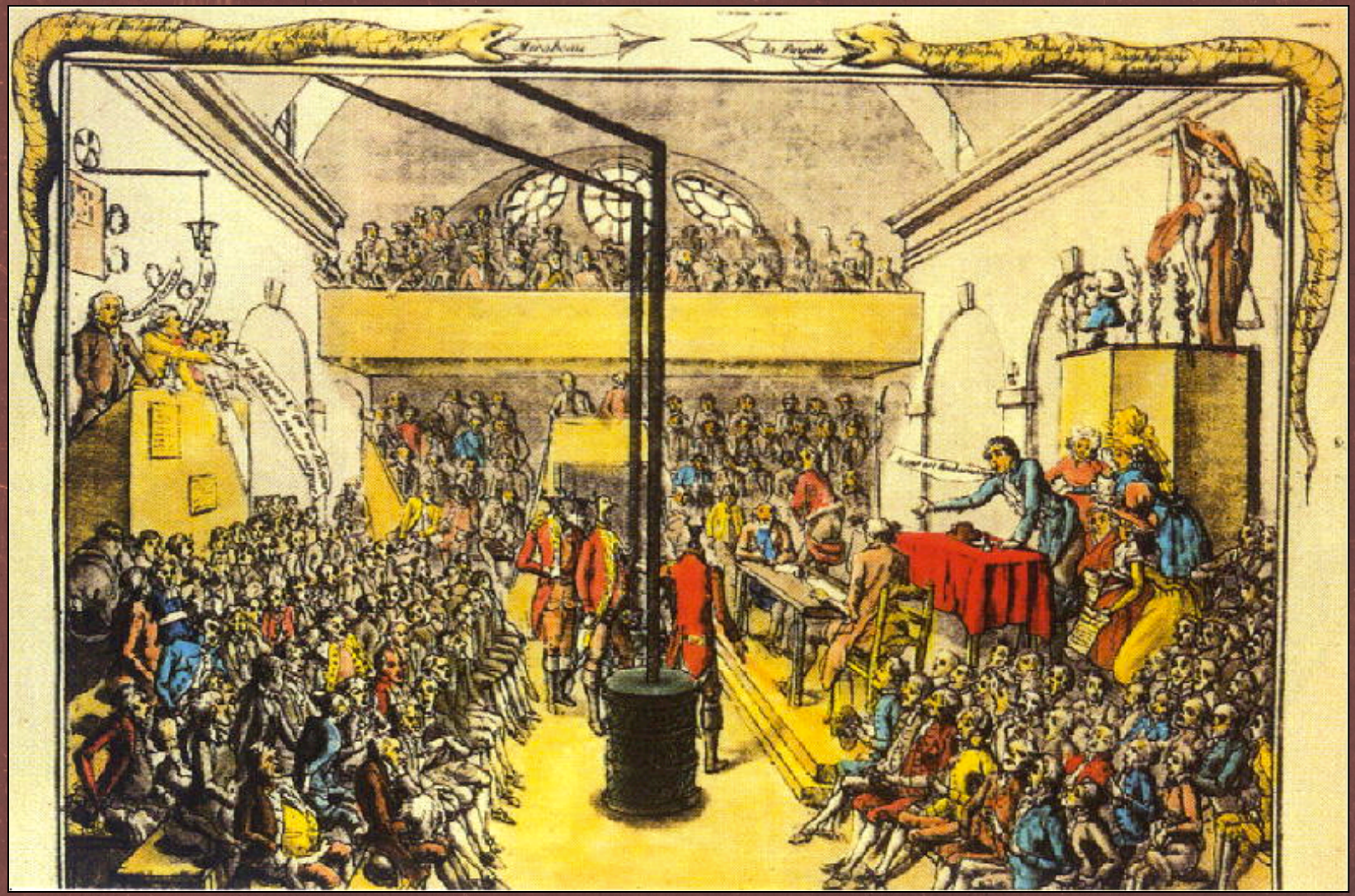
How did the revolutionaries change French society?

- The second group to lead Revolutionary France were the "radicals" (The Jacobins)
    - Debating society-turned-political party

- Developed a secret police & preached revolution across Europe
    - The Decree of Fraternity

- "The Reign of Terror"
    - Maximilien Robespierre

The Jacobins at a meeting



View of the Jacobins by the “Moderates”

Peuple
Vive la Egalité
Sans la Liberté
Le petit Souper a la Parisienne
A Parody of Sans Culotte refreshing after the fatigue of the day

The Jacobin's “Purifying” Pot

Jacobin Depiction of the King / Queen

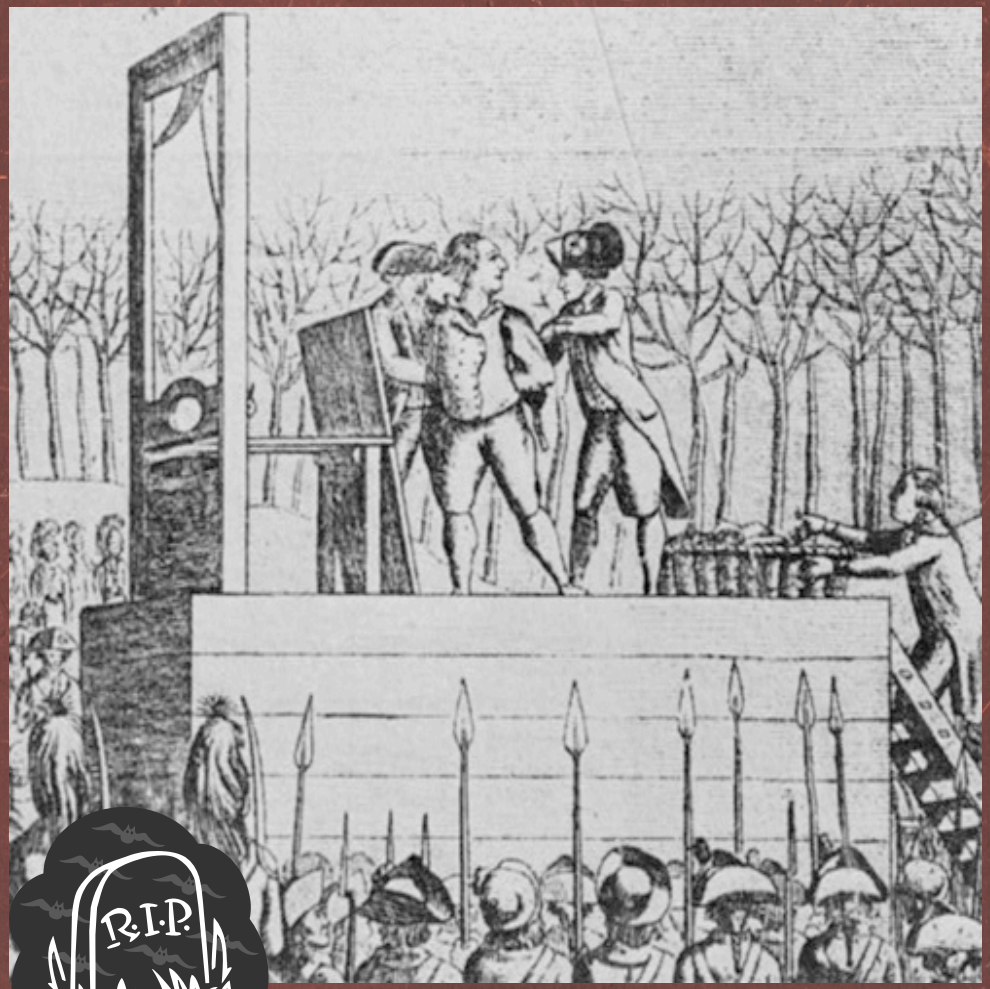
The Committee of Public Safety

The main revolutionary government of the "Reign of Terror"

Issued over 300,000 arrest warrants & between 16,000 – 50,000 death sentences

The Guillotine

The Execution of King Louis XVI



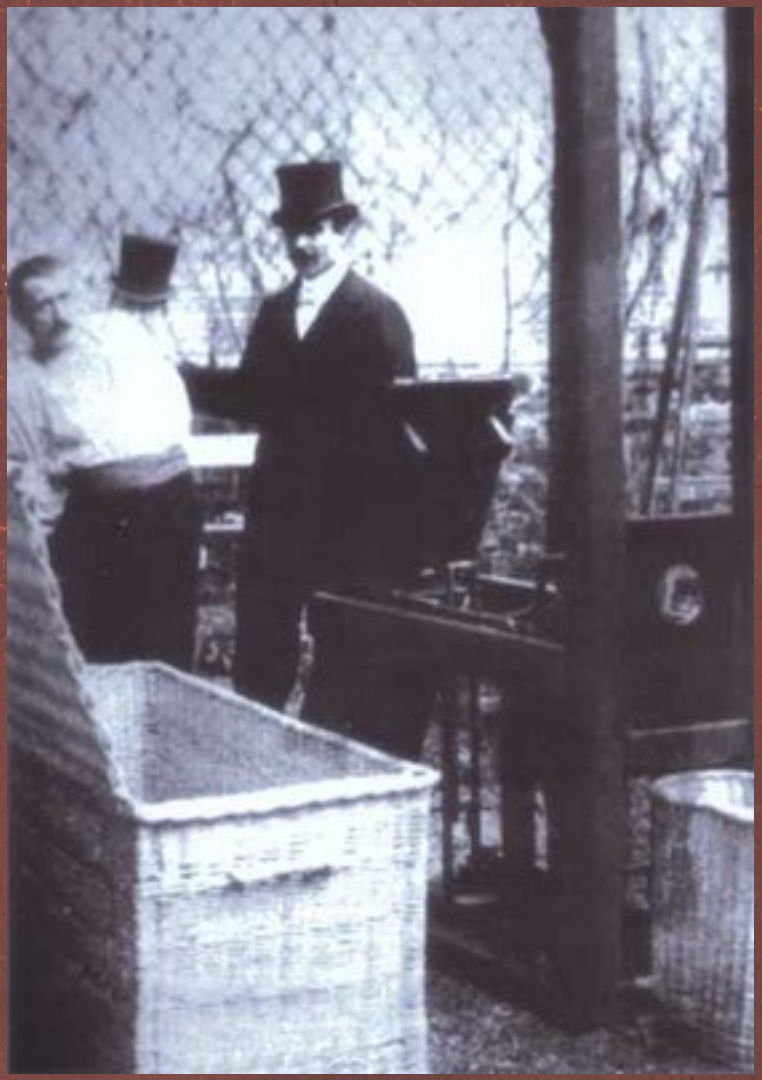
The Trail of Marie Antoinette

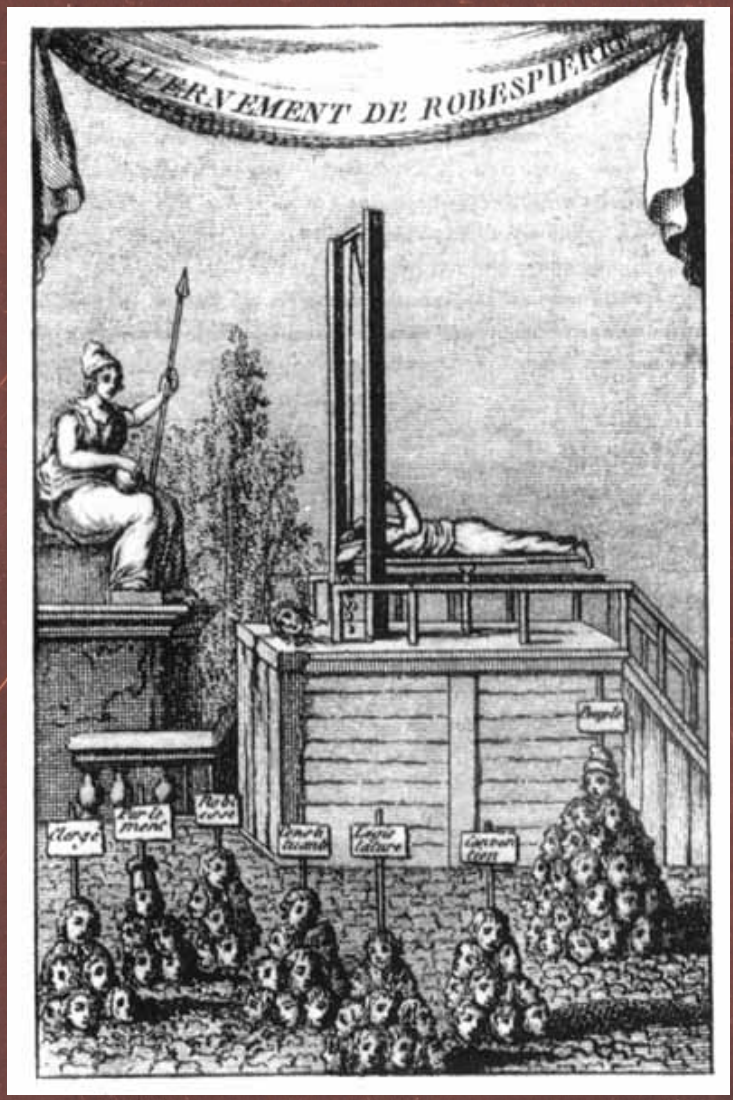
Marie Antoinette on Her Way to the Guillotine

The Queen's Execution

Public Use of Guillotine

Later Uses of the Guillotine in French Society





Last Public Use (1939)

Resistance to the Reign of Terror

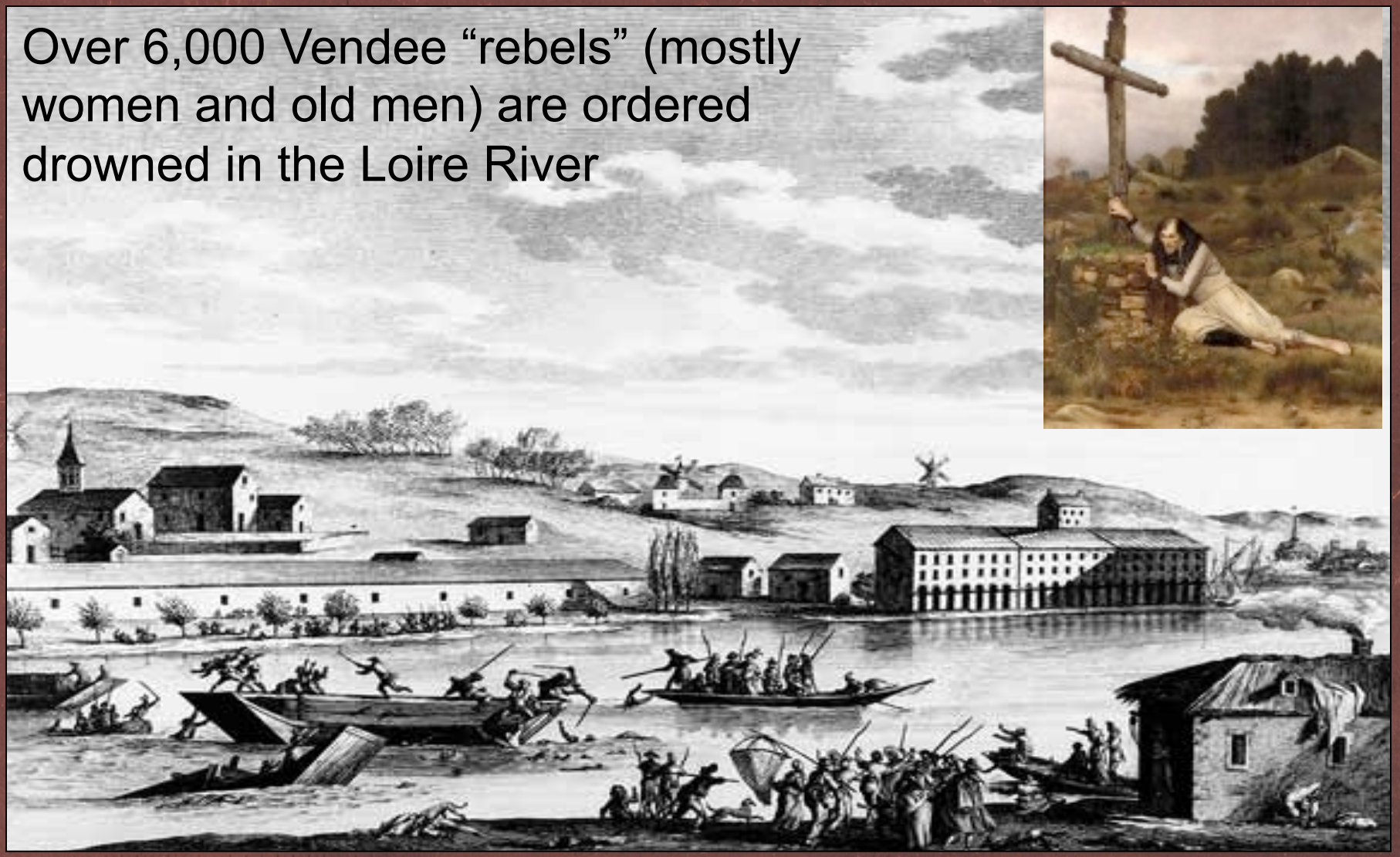
Anti-Jacobin forces attempted a revolt in the Vendee region of France.

The revolt was eventually put down with brutal tactics from the Jacobins

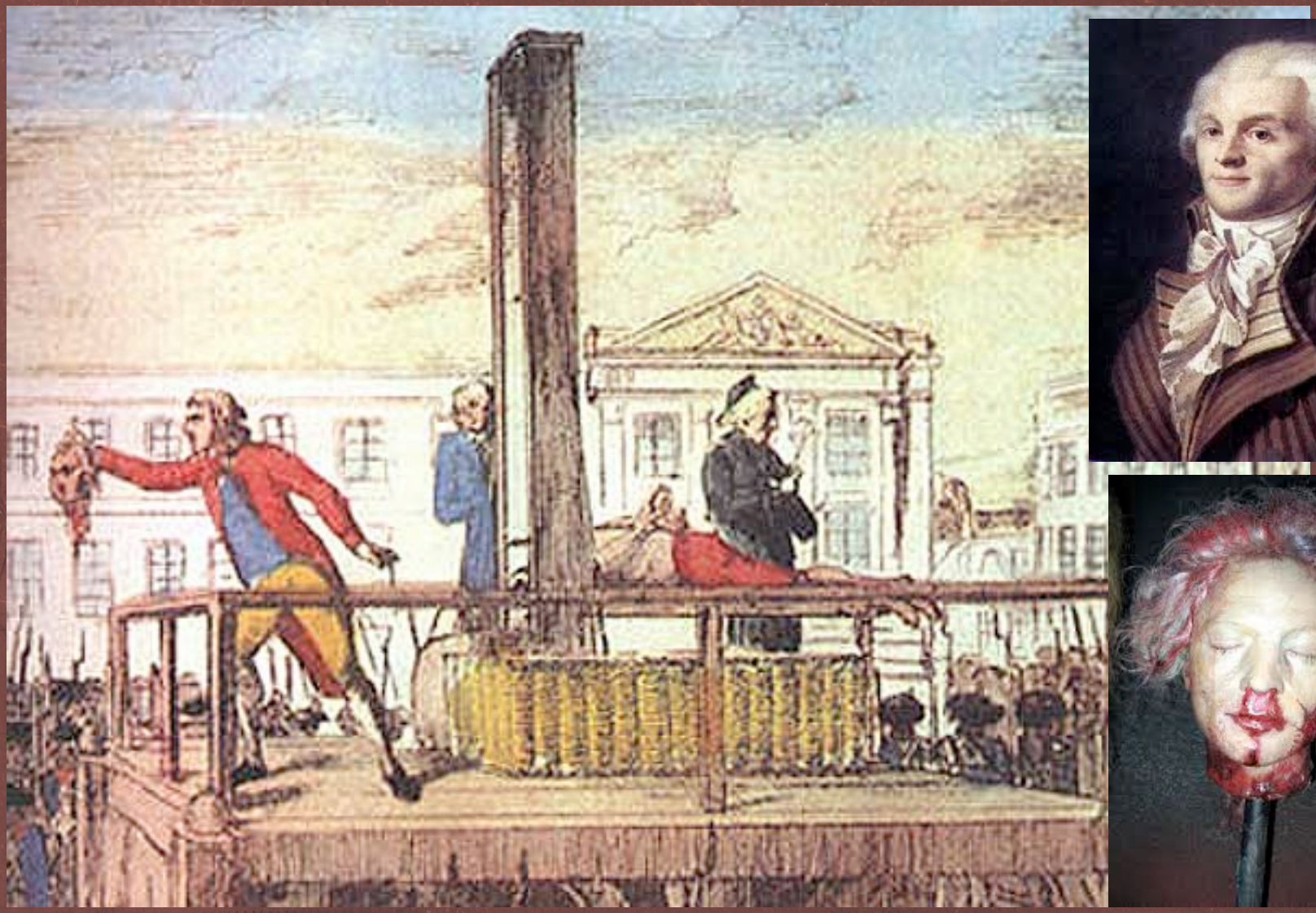
Jacobin “Scorched Earth” Policy

The first European genocide?

Over 6,000 Vendee “rebels” (mostly women and old men) are ordered drowned in the Loire River



Robespierre's Death (1794)



Who stepped in to finally restore order in France?

- The Reign of Terror finally came to an end with Napoleon Bonaparte in 1799
  - Popular French general
  - Brings order & reform to the French government
- Later crowned himself Emperor of France

Napoleon's Entry to Paris (1799)

Buonoparte
Vive le Triumvirat Buonaparte Sieyes Ducos
Vive la Liberté
EXIT LIBERTÈ a la FRANCOIS !_ or _ BUONAPARTE closing the Farce of Egalité, at St. Cloud near Paris Nov.r 10th 1799.